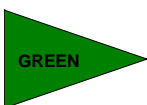


What do DEQ's air quality forecasts mean?

To find out about daily air quality conditions and air quality alerts, visit DEQ's Web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/air/aqindex.cfm or call the Treasure Valley Air Quality Information Line at (208) 373-0313.

During wintertime air quality alerts in the Treasure Valley...



... Limit driving by carpooling or ridesharing to help keep the air clean.

... Combine trips around town whenever possible to reduce vehicle emissions.

... Keep vehicles maintained through regular oil changes, regular maintenance service, and proper tire inflation.

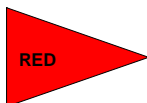


Follow GREEN recommendations **and**

... Limit time outdoors if you are a member of a sensitive population like children, elderly, and those with breathing

problems.

... Comply with open outdoor burning restrictions in your area. Contact local agency to find out what restrictions apply. Even if no burning prohibition is in effect in your area, please consider not burning during a yellow alert.



Follow GREEN and YELLOW recommendations **and**

... Stay indoors if you are a member of a sensitive population like children, elderly, and those with breathing problems. Everyone else should limit time outdoors.

... Comply with fireplace wood burning restrictions. Contact local agency to find out what restrictions apply. Even if no wood burning prohibition is in effect in your area, please consider not burning during a red alert.

... Work at home or stagger your work hours to avoid driving during peak hours, if your employer allows. If you go to work, ask your employer to allow video or teleconferencing to avoid driving to off-site meetings.

... Limit engine idling to reduce exposure to exhaust from diesel engines.

Where can I get more information?

State Agency Contacts

Contact the following agencies for information on current air quality conditions and issues.

Department of Environmental Quality

- Boise Regional Office: (208) 373-0550
- State Office: (208) 373-0502
- www.deq.state.id.us

For current air quality conditions and advisories: www.deq.idaho.gov/air/aqindex.cfm

Idaho Department of Agriculture

- State Office: (208) 332-8500
- South Idaho Complaint Hotline: (866) 435-0490
- www.idahoag.us

Local Burning Ordinances

Contact the agency below for information on residential and open burning ordinances.

Responsible Agency	Contact
Ada County/Solid Waste Department	853-1297
Canyon County/Local Fire Department	(Consult Local Phonebook)
Boise/Boise Fire Department	384-3950
Caldwell/Caldwell Fire Department	455-3032
Garden City/Code Compliance	472-2900
Greenleaf/Greenleaf City Clerk	454-0552
Eagle/Eagle Fire Department	939-6463
Kuna/Kuna City Clerk	922-5546
Meridian/Meridian Fire Department	888-1234
Middleton/Middleton Fire Department	585-6650
Nampa/Nampa Fire Department	465-2240
Notus/Notus City Clerk	459-6212
Parma/Parma Rural Fire	722-5716
Star/Star Fire Department	286-7772

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Winter Air Quality in the Treasure Valley

Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

Why it matters and what you can do to help prevent it



**Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality**

What is fine particulate matter?

Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is a pollutant, comprised of particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter. It is both a primary and a secondary pollutant, meaning it can be directly emitted into the air or formed chemically as other pollutants and chemicals combine in the air.

Why is PM_{2.5} a problem?

Due to topography and weather patterns, the Treasure Valley is subject to some of the most severe wintertime inversions in the intermountain west. During an inversion, colder, heavier air settles into the valley while the air above the inversion is much warmer. This causes the air to stagnate, trapping cold air and allowing the accumulation of air pollution. The pollution builds up until the emission sources are controlled and/or a strong weather system moves through and breaks the inversion. During these events, monitors in the valley have recorded pollution levels above the national health-based standard for PM_{2.5}.

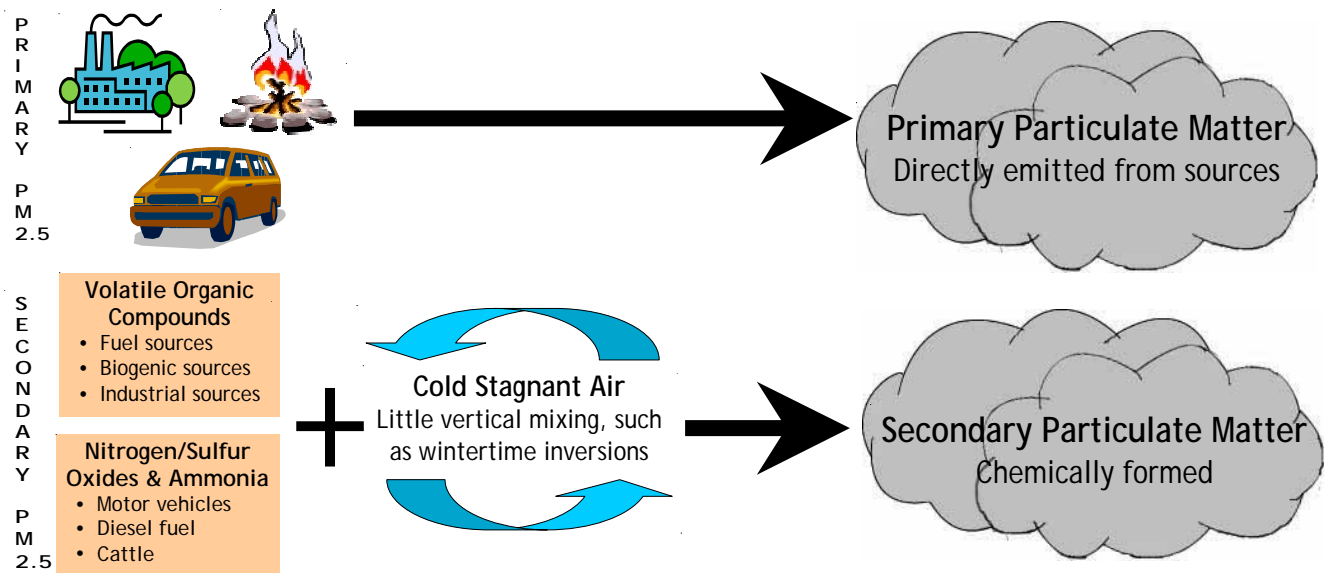
Exposure to fine particles is associated with several serious health effects, including premature death. Adverse health effects have been associated with exposures to particulate matter over both

short periods (such as a day) and longer periods (a year or more).

Breathing fine particulate matter is bad for everyone, although it is most harmful to children, adults who are active outdoors, and people with respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

How does it form?

In the Treasure Valley, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and ammonia particles combine with volatile organic compounds to form PM_{2.5}. The main sources of nitrogen oxides in the valley are vehicles (cars, SUVs, trucks, commercial vehicles) and construction and farm equipment. Almost two-thirds of ammonia emissions in the valley are from livestock waste, including dairies.



How do I know if PM_{2.5} levels are high?

DEQ monitors and measures several types of air pollutants throughout the Treasure Valley year round. Based on this data and meteorological conditions, DEQ issues daily air quality forecasts. Because of weather conditions, PM_{2.5} levels are particularly high during the winter.

You can access daily levels of air pollutants, including PM_{2.5}, and air quality forecasts on DEQ's Web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/air/aqindex.cfm.

By making wise choices, you can reduce pollution and help the environment.